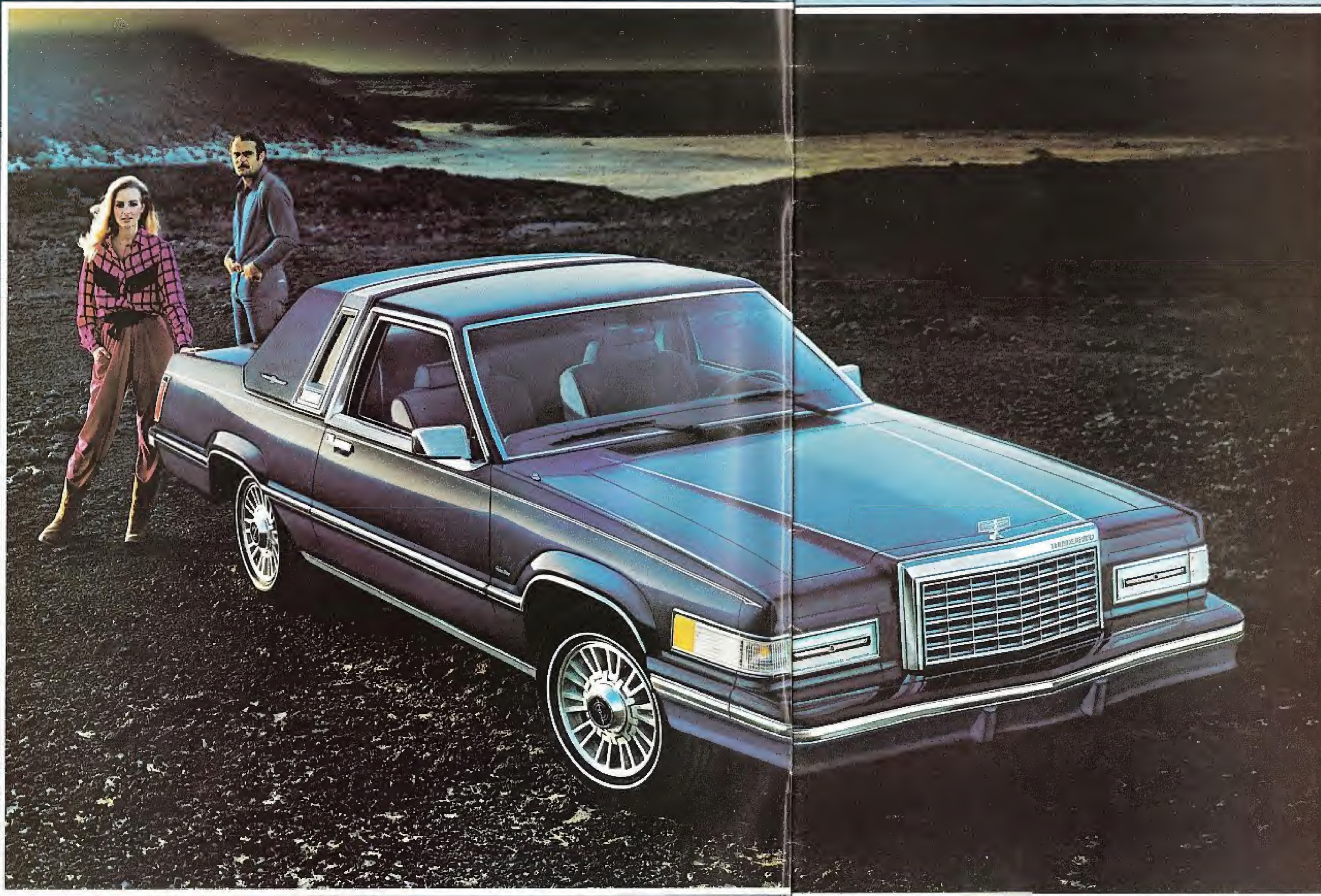


# THUNDERBIRD



1981



## The thunder's still there. HERITAGE

In the 26 years since Thunderbird first took to the American Road, the car has seen numerous changes. But a number of things have not changed. The hallmarks of Thunderbird, luxury, trend-setting innovations and prestige—all the things seen and unseen that have made Thunderbird a legendary automobile. The very "thunder" of Thunderbird.

The 1981 Thunderbird is the latest of a long and proud line. Evident, though, is the essence of the original beloved Thunderbird, something special in the lines and the look that tells you, unmistakably, the thunder's still there.

And, while we honor the tradition, we are very much aware of the needs for efficiency in the world of today and tomorrow. This year, the economical 3.3 liter (200 CID) 6-cylinder engine is standard.\* And the 4.2 liter (255 CID) V-8 (standard on Heritage) is now available with Ford's innovative Automatic Overdrive option.



Elegantly new for 1981 is the Thunderbird Heritage, opposite. And there's a restyled Town Landau.

There is much that's new as you'll soon see. But the best news is—the thunder's still there.

**In 1981, we want to put you in a car we can both be proud of.**

*Left: Thunderbird Heritage in Midnight Blue Metallic (3L) with matching vinyl roof. Front cover: Car color is Medium Blue Glow (3H).*

See Thunderbird Data Center (pages 1213) for Notable Standard Features, Measurements, EPA Information.\* Some items shown are optional. For options list see Options Selector (pages 1435).

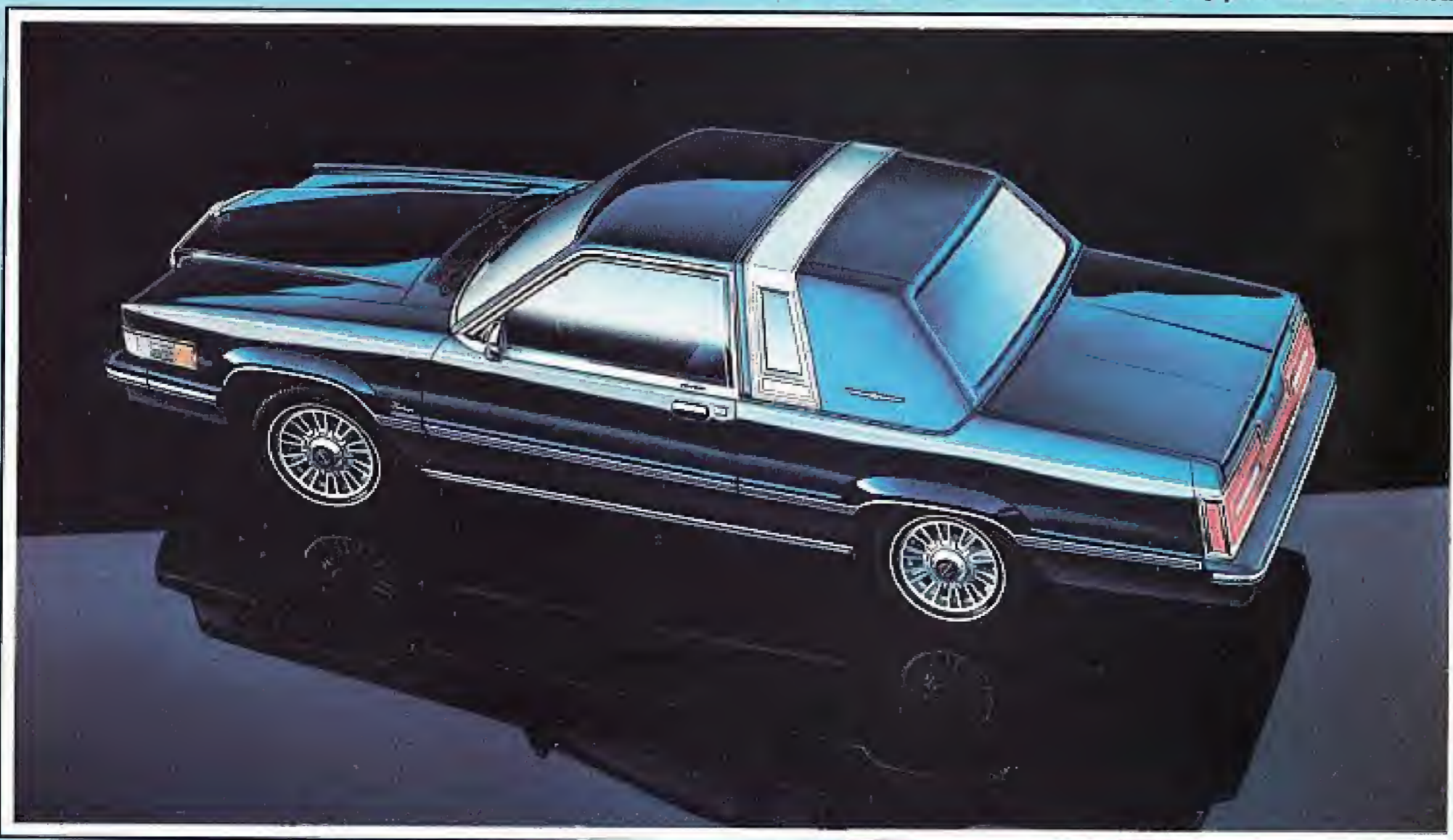
## The thunder's still there. HERITAGE

Heritage, we feel, is the perfect name for the 1981 top-of-the-line Thunderbird. In it is just about all of the luxury, convenience and elegance you could ask of Thunderbird. The rich heritage of Thunderbird classics is here. Beautifully appointed exterior features like a padded rear half vinyl roof with brushed aluminum wrapover band and coach lamps. Frenched backlight. Decklid stripes. Distinctive "arrowheads" at the forward end of the body stripes. Front cornering lamps.

power driver's seat. There's an illuminated visor vanity mirror for the front seat passenger and an electronic digital clock. Power side windows and power door locks. And the convenience of the Autolamp on/off/delay system (see page 14). An electronic AM/FM stereo search radio. The 4.2 liter V-8 engine. Air conditioning with tinted glass all around.

MADE ESPECIALLY FOR  
OWNER'S NAME

And uniquely Heritage, owners receive a bright rhodium engraved personalized nameplate to be mounted on the instrument panel (shipped after delivery). We think you'll agree. This is a very personal automobile.



Rocker panel moldings. Wire wheel covers. (Optional cast aluminum wheels shown.) But to evaluate Heritage best you must drive it. When you do, you'll enjoy all the comfort and convenience features that must be experienced to be fully appreciated. While you drive, check out all the standard features. The space-age Electronic Instrument Cluster. The customized comfort of the 6-way

When you test-drive the Thunderbird Heritage, there's so much to make you wish the route were a lot longer. The Heritage interior is designed with your comfort very much in mind. Sit back and stretch out in the luxurious split bench seats, shown here in Medium Wedgewood Blue with distinctive Crushed Velour cloth upholstery (JB). Also available are optional ultra-soft



leather seating surfaces. Elegant touches are all around.

The luxury steering wheel. Luxurious door trim with cloth inserts (vinyl with ultra-soft optional leather trim) and burl rosewood woodgrain accents. You'll find a complete list of Heritage interior features on page 12.

But we think it's much more convincing to see and feel the

beauty of Heritage than it is just to read about it. Your Ford Dealer will gladly handle the details.

Thunderbird Heritage isn't for everybody. But then if it were, it wouldn't be so special. If you're the Heritage person, we have one just for you.

See Thunderbird Data Center (pages 12-13) for Notable Standard Features, Measurements, EPA Information. Some items shown are optional. For options list, see Options Selector (pages 14-15).

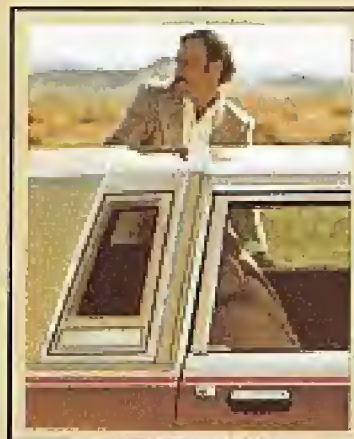
*The thunder's still there.*

## TOWN LANDAU

Take the contemporary size and proportions of the 1981 Thunderbird. Add to it traditional touches that have distinguished past Thunderbirds. Next, add distinction all its own and you have Town Landau. Head-turning richness and a popular new sticker price.

Town Landau is restyled for 1981 with handsome new looks. Topping off everything is the luxurious padded rear half vinyl roof with a new color-coordinated wrapover band and coach lamps. Dual remote control mirrors. Stripes accent the hood and bodyside. Luxury wheel covers add touches of their own (optional wire wheel covers shown).

Inside, muted thunder. Split bench front seats, both individually adjustable, with dual recliners and separate armrests. The upholstery is knit cloth fabric



in the Decor trim scheme. Coco Bola instrument panel appliques. And all these are **standard** features: tilt steering wheel, diagnostic warning lights, AM/FM stereo radio, interval windshield wipers, Light Group, and more. (For a complete list of Town Landau features, see page 12.)

If you want a 1981 Thunderbird with this kind of distinction, you want Town Landau, shown here in Tu-Tone Fawn (89) over Medium Fawn Glow (55).

The fully appointed Interior Luxury Group (above) is optional on Thunderbird and Town Landau. It is shown here in Medium Fawn with Crushed Velour cloth upholstery (JL). (The complete list of Interior Luxury Group features is detailed on page 14.)

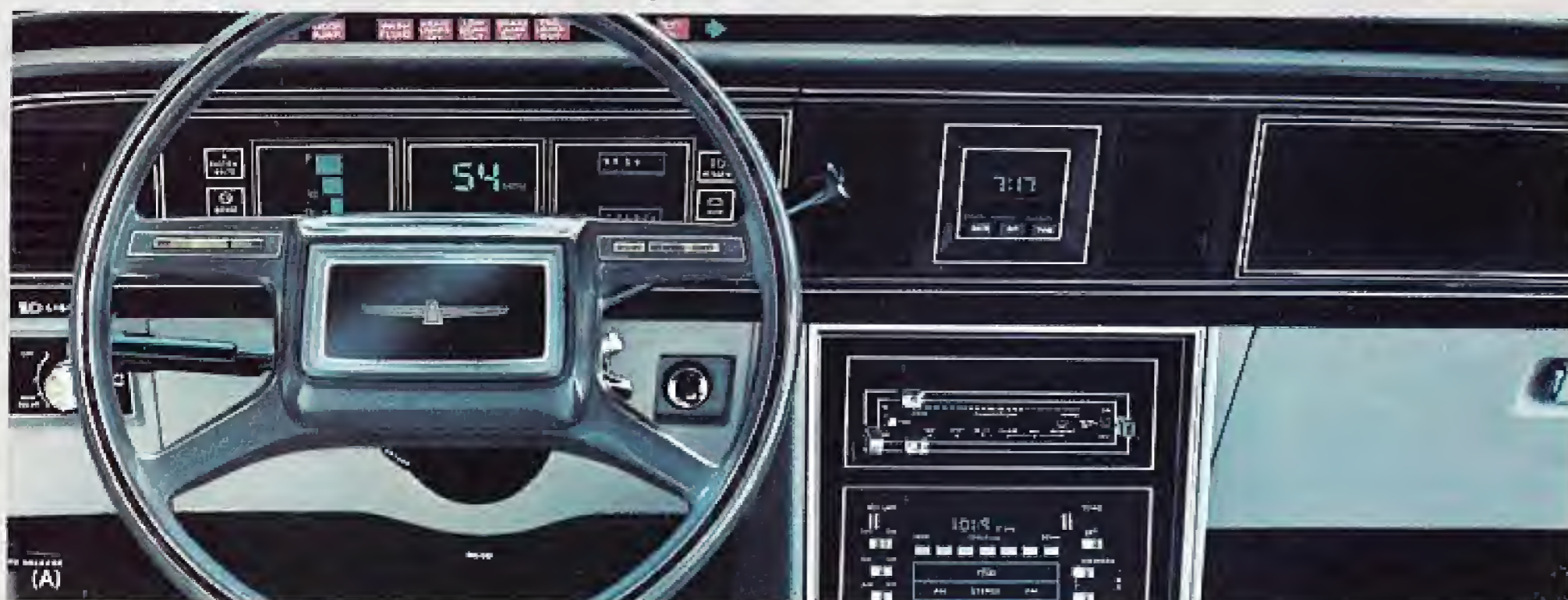
See Thunderbird Data Center (pages 12-13) for Notable Standard Features, Measurements, EPA Information. Some items shown are optional. For options list, see Options Selector (pages 14-15).



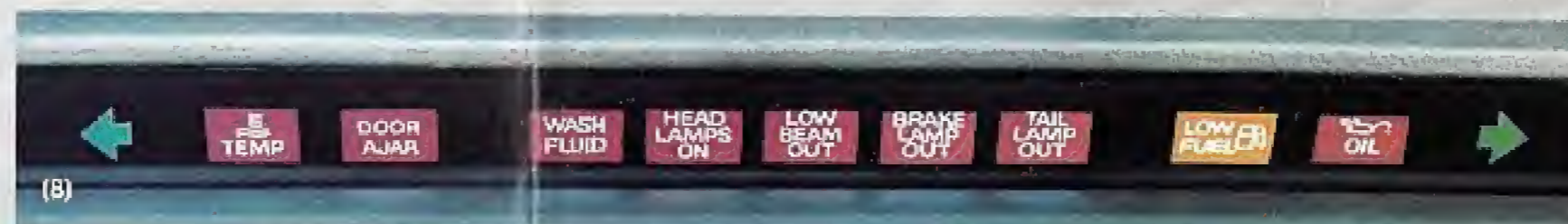
# Thunderbird INNOVATIONS

"Innovation" is a word you often hear in connection with Thunderbird. And quite naturally. Because Thunderbird has been a source of forward-thinking automotive better ideas from its beginning a quarter century ago. Better ideas like the personal car concept, the swing-away steering wheel, "floating" windshield-mounted mirror and sequential turn signals, to name a few. Innovation is part of the "thunder" in Thunderbird — the excitement of Thunderbird ownership.

And in this electronic age Thunderbird has space-age excitement for you. Innovations... better ideas. Each adds to the thunder and makes owning a Thunderbird something more than mere possession of a fine car.



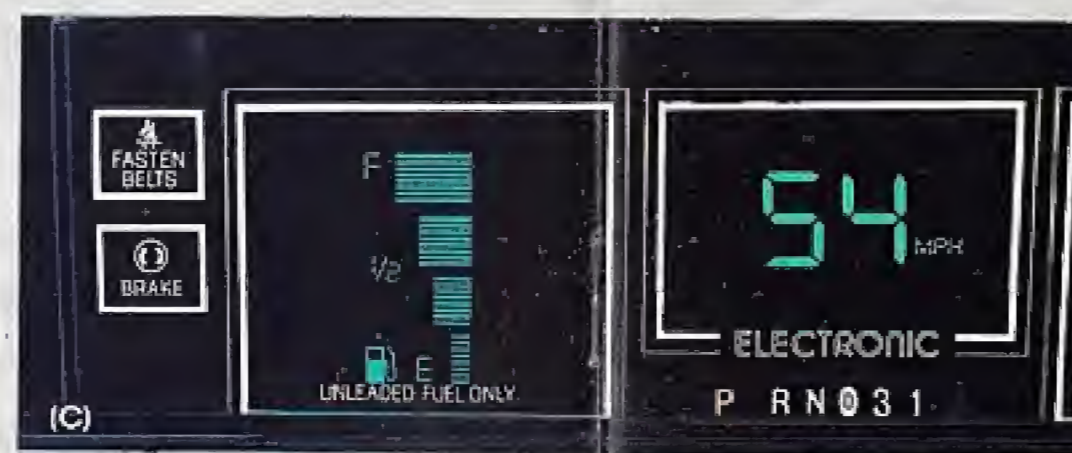
**(A) Thunderbird Instrument Panel.** A beautiful two-tiered control center with many fascinating features. Shown here are Diagnostic Warning Lights (B), Electronic Fuel Gauge and Digital Speedometer detailed in (C). The latter two are part of the optional Electronic Instrument Cluster which also includes an Electronic Digital Clock. At the touch of a button, a digital readout tells you the time, the elapsed time of your trip, or the date. An additional elegant touch: When headlamps are lighted, the "Thunderbird" lettering (far right of the panel) is softly illuminated. Electronic Instrument Cluster, with all the features described here, is standard on Thunderbird Heritage.



**(B) Diagnostic Warning Lights.** Standard on Town Landau and Heritage, this handy option spans the top edge of the two-tiered panel and signals the following conditions: "door ajar," "low washer fluid," "headlamps on" (accompanied by warning chime), "low beam out," "brake lamp out," "taillamp out," "low fuel." Also shown are the standard warning lights "temp" (above normal) and "oil" (pressure low) at either end.

**(C) The Electronic Fuel Gauge, Digital Speedometer and Automatic Overdrive Transmission.**

Bar graph segments in the fuel gauge, lighted with contrasted intensity, register more precisely to the eye the level of fuel in the tank than a needle-type gauge. The Digital Speedometer registers a large, numerical readout. A quick glance reveals the car's speed every moment you're under way. MPH/KmPH conversion at the touch of a switch. Both features are included in the Electronic Instrument Cluster option, described in (A), and standard with the Heritage model. Also available is the engineering breakthrough Automatic Overdrive. At about 40 mph in D (Drive), it automatically shifts into a fourth overdrive gear. This causes the engine to turn one-third more slowly, substantially improving highway fuel economy.\* (Automatic Overdrive is required with the 5.0 liter V-8, available with the 4.2 liter V-8, not available with the standard 3.3 liter engine.)



**(D) Column-Mounted Controls.** Standard on all Thunderbird models, this two-lever system places several frequently used controls right at your fingertips. Front control activates turn signal, horn, headlamp dimmer. Rear control operates windshield washer/wipers.



**(F) Deep-Well Trunk.** A feature that points up Thunderbird practicality. The standard deep-well trunk offers a full 17.7 cu. ft. of cargo area. Litter height is comfortably low for easy loading and unloading. A handy light is standard.

**(G) Recaro Bucket Seats.** Recaro, the famous manufacturer of aircraft and racing car seats, designed these optional seats. They are contoured to nestle close to the body and provide special support. Each has an adjustable thigh support and reclining seat back control.



**(E) Keyless Entry System.** Another fine example of Thunderbird innovation. With this option, five small calculator-type pushbuttons in the upper driver's door act as your key. When depressed in the proper coded sequence, doors or decklid can be locked or unlocked automatically. Operating code can be changed at any time by the owner.



See the Thunderbird Data Center (pages 12-13) for Notable Standard Features, Measurements, EPA information.\* Some items shown are optional. For options list, see Options Selector (pages 14-15).

## The thunder's still there. THUNDERBIRD

For all its style and flair, the '81 Thunderbird is still a very practical car. With stretch-out seating for four adults. A big travel-size trunk and an efficient 6-cylinder engine/SelectShift automatic transmission power team.\* And whether you add a host of options or none at all, your personal

features the Exterior Decor Group, which includes rear half vinyl roof, remote control right-hand mirror, bodyside paint stripes, wide door bell moldings and luxury wheel covers.

At the right you'll see the new Thunderbird in Red (24) topped with the new Carriage Roof option which lends the car a "convertible" look. Also shown are dual accent paint stripes and luxury wheel covers. These are just a few of the many options and option groups offered. With the help of the Thunderbird Options



Thunderbird will be one of the most distinctive cars on the road today. Equip yours to fit your own personality.

Above, you see one striking way to dress up the new Thunderbird. This Black (1C) over Silver Metallic (1G) combination is one of five Tu-Tone choices for 1981. And doesn't it add a rich look to Thunderbird? This model also

Selector (pages 14-15), you'll find there is almost no end to the number of ways you can personalize a Thunderbird and make it your own car.

The Interior Decor Group (above right), is shown with Dove Grey bucket seats in deep grain vinyl (GS) and console, Decor door trim panels with assist straps, 18-oz. floor carpeting, Coco Bola woodtone



instrument panel appliques, and passenger visor vanity mirror. Split bench seats in cloth and vinyl or in supersoft vinyl are also available. See Options Selector, pages 14-15.

The classic richness of Thunderbird is evident in the standard flight bench seat, shown in Dark Red deep grain vinyl (FD). Cloth and vinyl trim is standard.

Vinyl bucket seats and console are optional. A complete list of interior appointments is shown under Notable Standard Features, page 12.

As advanced as this '81 Thunderbird is, the traditional thunder is still there.

See Thunderbird Data Center (pages 233) for Notable Standard Features, Measurements, EPA Information.\* Some items shown are optional. For options list, see Options Selector (pages 14-15).

# Thunderbird DATA CENTER



## Notable Standard Features

The standard equipment of any car is often a reliable yardstick of its value. Read over this list. Then compare Thunderbird for standard features with any other car in its class.

### Thunderbird

- 3.3 liter (200 CID) IV 6-cylinder engine with DuraSpark electronic ignition ■ Electronic voltage regulator ■ Maintenance-free battery ■ SelectShift automatic transmission ■ Modified MacPherson strut-type front suspension, 4-bar link rear suspension, front and rear stabilizer bars ■ Power front disc brakes with audible lining wear indicators/power rear drum brakes ■ Foot-operated parking brake with warning light ■ P-Metric 14" WSW steel-belted radial ply tires (4) ■ Mini spare tire (stowed vertically in quarter panel for maximum trunk space) ■ Variable ratio power steering (rack and pinion design) ■ Front and rear bumpers enclosed in soft, color-keyed urethane ■ Concealed single rectangular halogen headlamps with wrap-around parking lamps ■ Fluidic windshield washer system with 2-speed wipers ■ Thunderbird Sound Insulation Package ■ Steering column-mounted controls—Front lever: Turn signal/horn/headlamp dimmer. Rear lever: Windshield washer/wipers. ■ Power Ventilation System ■ Three-speed heater/defroster ■ Coolant recovery system ■ Inside hood release ■ Day/night inside mirror ■ AM radio (may be deleted for credit) ■ Self-regulating illuminated electric clock ■ Trip odometer ■ Continuous loop color-keyed deluxe bells with comfort regulator feature and pleasant reminder chime ■ Lighted locking glove box, lighted ashtray ■ Cigarette lighter ■ Separate ignition and door lock keys ■ Anti-theft door lock buttons (mounted horizontally in armrests) ■ Inertia seat back releases ■ Dual note horn ■ Deep-well trunk with full-width bulloom mat and front lining boards ■ Luggage compartment light ■ Flight bench seat ■ Cloth/vinyl upholstery ■ 10-oz. color-keyed cut-pile carpeting ■ All-vinyl door trim panels with carpeted lower (except

- with white vinyl trim) ■ Two-tier instrument panel with high-gloss black appliques ■ Deluxe 4-spoke soft-rim steering wheel ■ Color-keyed cloth-covered headlining and sun visors ■ Full quarter windows ■ Coved quarter trim panels for rear seat roominess ■ Bright moldings: windshield, drip rail and backlight ■ LH remote control mirror ■ Vinyl insert bodyside moldings (color-coordinated) with partial wheelip moldings ■ Chrome-plated grille ■ Thunderbird hood ornament ■ Thunderbird rear pillar ornaments ■ Full-width wraparound taillamps with integral side marker lights ■ Full wheel covers (4) ■ Ford's Limited Corrosion Perforation Warranty

### Thunderbird Town Landau

Includes most of the above standard features with these more luxurious additions or variations:

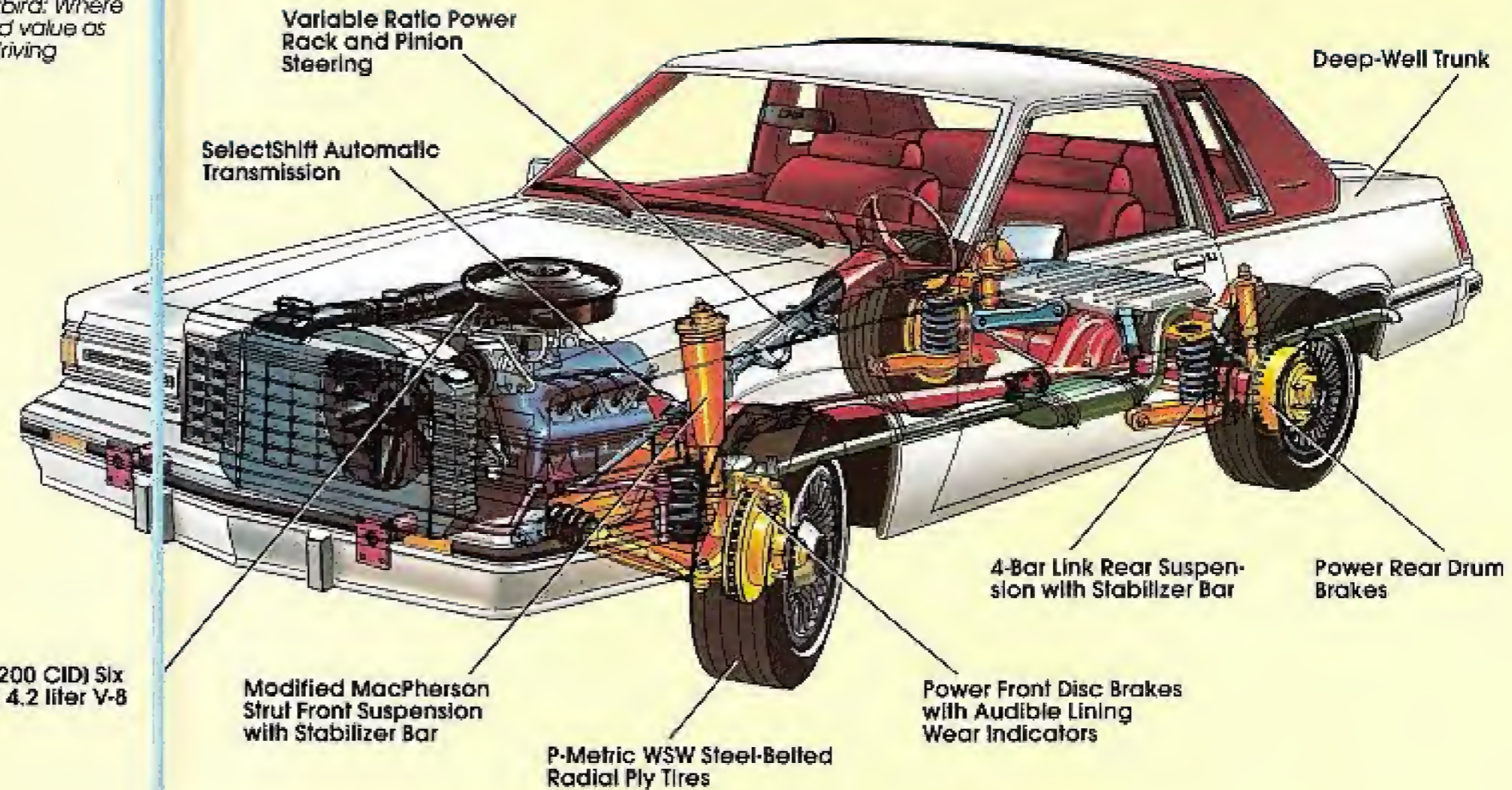
- Split bench front seats, individually adjustable, with dual recliners and separate armrests ■ Knit cloth fabric in decor trim scheme ■ Decor door trim panels with assist straps ■ Armrest pads on quarter trim panels ■ Coco Bola woodtone instrument panel appliques ■ 18-oz. luxury carpeting ■ Tilt steering wheel ■ Diagnostic warning lights ■ AM/FM stereo radio ■ Interval windshield wipers ■ Light Group: dual beam map light, instrument panel courtesy lights and engine compartment light ■ Dual remote control mirrors ■ Padded rear half vinyl roof with color-coordinated wrapover band and coach lamps ■ Wide door belt moldings ■ Hood and bodyside stripes ■ "Town Landau" fender script ■ Luxury wheel covers

### Heritage Series

Includes most of the Town Landau equipment items previously listed, plus these features:

- 4.2 liter (255 CID) V-8 engine ■ Autolamp on/off/delay system ■ Power lock group ■ Power side windows ■ Automatic parking brake release ■ Six-way power driver's seat (except with Recaro bucket seats) ■ Velour cloth seat trim in luxury sew style ■ Cloth-covered† head restraints ■ Luxury door trim panels with cloth inserts† and burl rosewood woodtone accents ■ Cloth inserts† in coved area of quarter trim panels ■ Courtesy lamps in quarter trim panels ■ Illuminated visor vanity mirror on passenger side ■ Electronic Instrument Cluster ■ Electronic AM/FM stereo search radio ■ Air conditioning with manual temperature control ■ Tinted glass—complete ■ Burl rosewood woodtone instrument panel appliques ■ Bright rhodium engraved owner's nameplate (shipped after delivery) ■ Luxury steering wheel ■ Luxury luggage compartment trim ■ Padded rear half vinyl roof with brushed

An inside look at Thunderbird: Where better ideas mean added value as they contribute to your driving pleasure.



3.3 Liter (200 CID) Six (optional 4.2 liter V-8 shown)

aluminum wrapover band and coach lamps ■ Frenched backlight ■ Distinctive "arrowheads" at forward end of body stripes ■ Decklid stripes ■ Front cornering lamps ■ Rocker panel moldings ■ Unique hood ornament with "cut glass" look ■ "Heritage" fender script ■ Wire wheel covers

†Vinyl with optional ultra-soft leather trim.



## Measurements

Wheelbase	108.4"
Length	200.4"
Height	53.0"
Width	74.1"
Tread Front	58.2"
Tread Rear	57.0"
Trunk Space	17.7 cu. ft.*
Fuel Cap.	18.0 gals.
Curb Wt. (approx.)	3,282 lbs.**
Passengers	4

\*16.3 cu. ft. with Luxury Luggage Compartment Trim, 14.4 cu. ft. with conventional spare tire, 13.3 cu. ft. with both.

\*\*With 4.2 liter V-8 engine.



## EPA Gas Mileage Estimates

Of course, gas mileage is one of your top concerns these days. It's one of ours, too. 1981 EPA estimates were not available at the time this catalog was published. Thunderbird, however, should post good miles-per-gallon ratings in the new EPA Gas Mileage Guide as it did last year. See your Ford Dealer for the latest EPA information.



## Ford Limited Corrosion Perforation Warranty

Ford Motor Company provides a 3-year, unlimited mileage corrosion perforation warranty on all new model cars sold in the 50 United States. The warranty states that any part which, in normal

use, rusts through from corrosion within three years of retail delivery or first use will be repaired or replaced free of charge by the selling dealer after inspection by a Ford representative. Of course, exhaust system components or parts which develop corrosion perforation caused by accidents or other damage are not covered.



## Thunderbird Maintenance Schedule— Another Better Idea

Ford wants to reduce both the frequency and cost of scheduled maintenance on its cars to an absolute minimum. And, compared to just a few years ago, we're making strides in that direction. For example, in 1973 an engine oil change was called for each 4,000 miles. In 1981, Thunderbird oil changes are recommended at 10,000-mile intervals (7,500 miles with V-8's). Other recommended intervals are now 30,000 miles between spark plug changes, 30,000

miles between air filter replacements, 50,000 miles or 3 years between engine coolant replacements. We think this kind of maintenance schedule rates as a Ford Better Idea—and we're working constantly to make it even better!



## Colors and Trims

As you've probably already noted, '81 Thunderbird car colors and interior trims are referred to by their order codes. Example: Polar White (9D). On the printed page, of course, colors are at best only representative of the original. For this reason we've included the codes wherever possible so that you can more easily check out a particular color or trim. With the code as a guide, your Ford Dealer can show you actual samples of Thunderbird paint colors and trim materials.

# Thunderbird OPTIONS SELECTOR

## Personalized Thunder

Selecting options for your new Thunderbird can be doubly rewarding. With your selection, you can **personalize** your Thunderbird. And, by adding to the actual dollar value in the beginning, options can contribute to your trade-in value when it's time for another new Thunderbird. The '81 Thunderbird options list is as varied as it is long. See for yourself.



## Audio

- AM/FM Monaural Radio
- AM/FM Stereo Radio\*†
- AM/FM Stereo Radio with Cassette Tape Player\* †
- AM/FM Stereo Radio with 8-Track Tape Player\* †
- Electronic AM/FM Stereo Search Radio\* offers search and scan features plus an electronic "memory" for your favorite stations.\*\*
- (A) **Electronic AM/FM Stereo Search Radio with Cassette Tape Player and Dolby® Noise Reduction System\***
- Electronic AM/FM Stereo Search Radio with 8-Track Tape Player\*
- Dual Rear Seat Speakers with fader control for monaural radios
- Premium Sound System. For stereo radios. Includes 30-watt power amplifier (60-watt with Electronic Search Radios), upgraded rear speakers, two additional canted speakers on front door panels.

\*Dual speakers front and rear with fader control included

## Appearance

- Carriage Roof. This simulated convertible top adds a whole new sporty look to your Thunderbird
- Exterior Decor Group. Rear half vinyl roof in Black, Bittersweet, Medium Red,

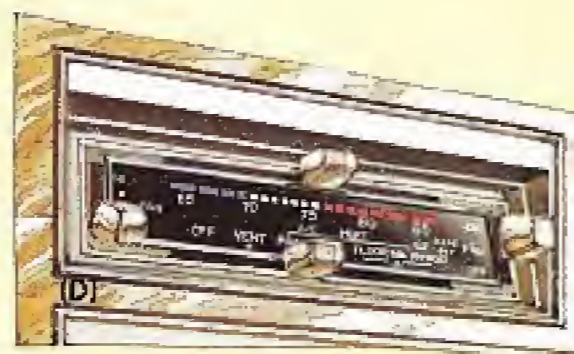
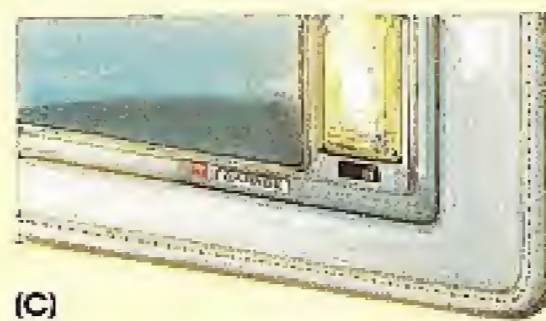
Silver, Midnight Blue, Fawn, or White, RH remote control mirror, bodyside paint stripes, luxury wheel covers, and wide door belt moldings
- Dual Accent Paint Stripes
- Hood and Bodyside Stripes†\*\*
- Luxury Luggage Compartment Trim\*\*
- Tu-Tone Paint/Tape Treatment. Five Tu-Tone combinations. Black over Silver Metallic, Red over Fawn, Midnight Blue Metallic over Medium Blue Glow, Fawn over Medium Fawn Glow, Bittersweet Glow over Dark Cordovan Metallic. Includes tri-color bodyside tape stripes and 2-color hood and decklid stripes
- Rear Half Vinyl Roof in seven color choices (see Exterior Decor Group above). Padded rear half vinyl roof with color-coordinated wrapover band and coach lamps standard on Town Landau. Padded rear half vinyl roof with brushed aluminum wrapover band, coach lamps and "trenched" backlight standard on Heritage.

## Assists/Electronic Driving Aids

- (B) **Autolamp On/Off/ Delay System.\*\*** On the road, turns on headlamps at dusk, turns them off after sunrise. At home, provides an adjustable interval of light long enough to see you into the house
- Diagnostic Warning Lights (see "Innovations" page 8)†\*\*
- Electronic Instrument Cluster. Features Electronic Fuel Gauge, Digital Speedometer and Electronic Digital Clock. (see "Innovations" pages 8-9)\*\*

## Comfort and Convenience (Interior)

- Electronic Digital Clock (see "Innovations" page 8)\*\*
- (C) **Garage Door Opener control.** Coded to a receiver you attach to your opener unit. Neatly designed into the driver's sun visor. Includes dual illuminated visor vanity mirrors.
- Illuminated Visor Vanity Mirror (passenger side)\*\*
- Light Group. Includes dual beam map light, instrument panel courtesy lights, engine compartment light†\*\*
- Automatic parking brake release\*\*



- (D) **Select-Aire Conditioner with Automatic Temperature Control.** Maintains preset temperature levels the year round. Unit with manual control also available (standard on Heritage)
- Tinted Glass (complete)\*\*
- RH Remote Control Mirror†\*\*



- (E) **Fingertip Speed Control.** You set any safe speed at or above 30 mph, and Fingertip Speed Control maintains it. Great convenience, and holding steady speeds helps save gas. Pressing the brake pedal deactivates the system. Touch of the "resume" button automatically reestablishes speed set prior to braking. Shown with Leather-Wrapped Luxury Steering Wheel
- Tilt Steering Wheel.†\*\* Adjusts to five separate positions. Tilts up out of the way for easier entry and exit.

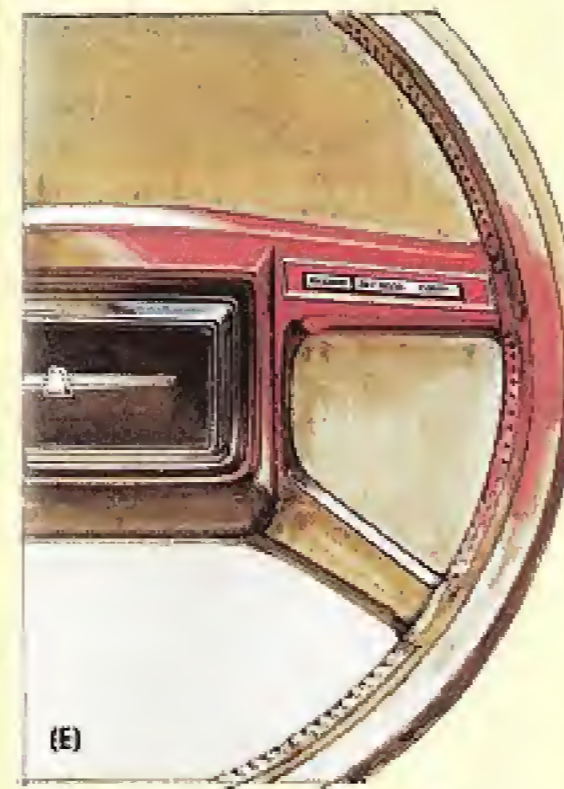
## Interiors

- (Seats and trims are illustrated and described with display cars and in Notable Standard Features, page 12.)
- Interior Decor Group.† Split bench seats with dual recliners (or bucket seats and console). Decor door trim panels with assist straps. 18-oz. floor carpeting. Coco Bola woodlone instrument panel appliques. Passenger visor vanity mirror. Armrest pads on quarter trim panels.
- Interior Luxury Group.\*\* Includes split bench seats with dual recliners, cloth-

covered head restraints, distinctive door and quarter trim inserts/moldings, courtesy lights (Heritage and Town Landau only), 18-oz. floor carpeting, burl rosewood woodlone instrument panel and door panel appliques, luxury steering wheel, RH illuminated visor vanity mirror, electronic digital clock, light group, diagnostic warning lights, power side windows, automatic parking brake release, interval windshield wipers, luxury luggage compartment trim, tinted glass.
- Recaro Bucket Seats. Available with Interior Decor Group or Interior Luxury Group. (see "Innovations" page 9)

## Protection

- Mud and Stone Deflectors
- Rocker Panel Moldings\*\*
- Front license plate bracket
- Wide door bell moldings†\*\*
- Lower Body-side Protection
- Appearance Protection Group. Front carpet floor mats, door edge guards and license plate frame(s).



## Convenience (Exterior)

- (F) **Flip-Up Open Air Roof.** Can be removed completely for the feeling of a convertible, or flipped up part way for more fresh air
- Electric Rear Window Defroster
- Illuminated Entry System. When handle is raised, interior and door lock are lighted for about 25 seconds or until ignition is turned on
- Pivoting Front Vent Windows
- Front Cornering Lamps†\*\* light your way around corners, activated by turn signal lever
- Keyless Entry System (see "Innovations" page 9)
- Interval Windshield Wipers†\*\*

## Power Assists

- Power Radio Antenna
- Power Lock Group\*\*
- 4-Way Power Flight Bench Seat
- 6-Way Power Driver's Seat\*\*
- Power Side Windows\*\* (included in Interior Luxury Group)

## Tires

- (G) **Puncture-Resistant Self-Sealing Tires.** Seal 90% of all punctures from objects 3/8" in diameter or less with special sealant inside the tire. When object is removed, sealant is pulled into the hole, effectively plugging the puncture and keeping the tire inflated.

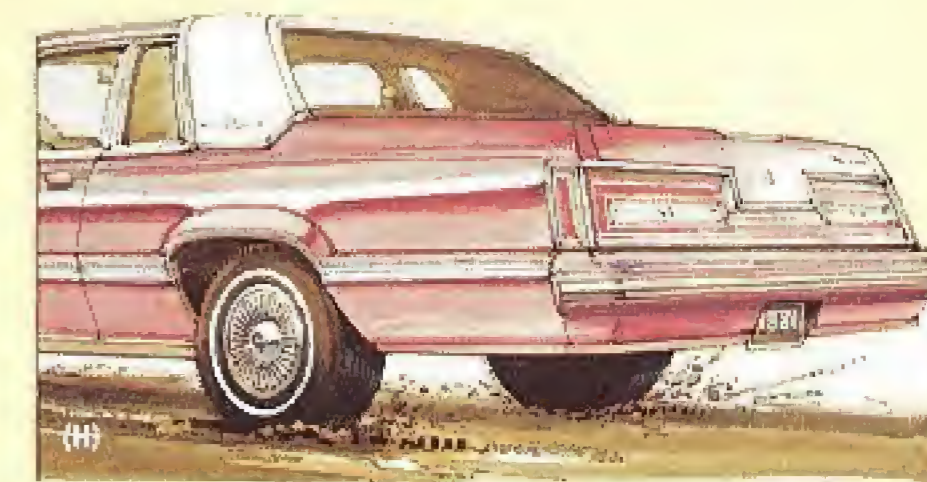


- TR-Type (Wide-Oval, Low-Profile) White Sidewall Radial Tires. Include cast aluminum wheels.
- (I) **Conventional Spare Tire.** Replaces standard mini-spare. Stows in deep well of the trunk and precludes use of this space.

## Wheels/Wheel Covers

- Counterclockwise: (I) **Cast Aluminum Wheels.** Now with anti-theft lug nuts. (J) **Luxury Wheel Covers.**† Included in Exterior Decor Group.
- (K) **Wire Wheel Covers\*\***

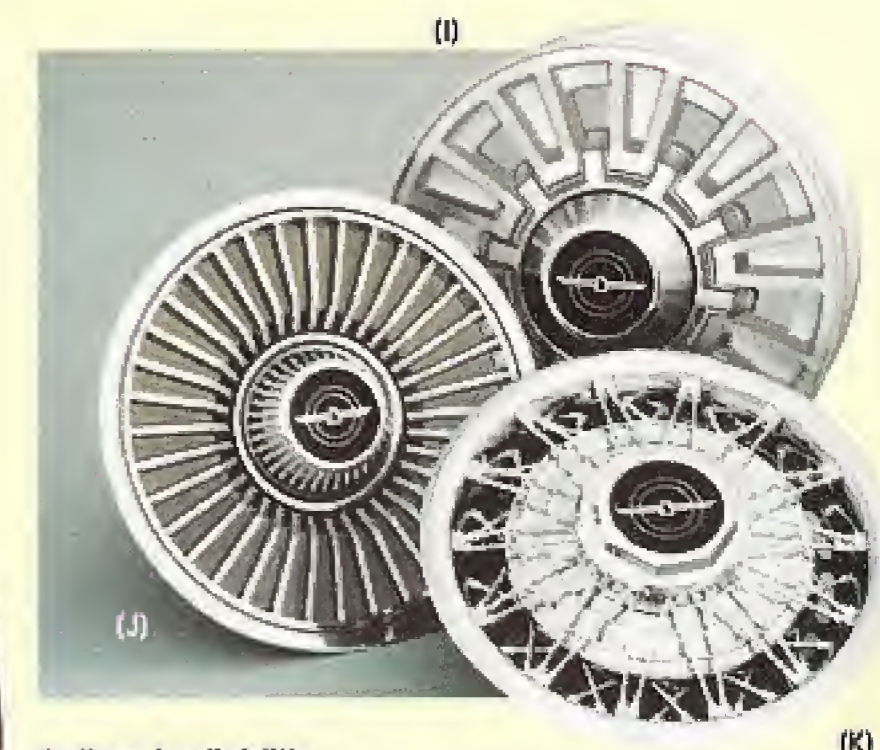
†Standard on Town Landau  
\*\*Standard on Heritage



## Performance

- Heavy-Duty Battery
- Heavy-Duty/Handling Suspension. HD front and rear springs. HD front stabilizer bar. HD front strut shock valving and HD rear shock absorbers
- High Altitude Emission System
- California Emission System
- 4.2 Liter (255 CID) VV (variable venturi) V-8 Engine\*\*
- 5.0 Liter (302 CID) 2V V-8 Engine
- Engine Block Immersion Heater
- Automatic Overdrive Transmission (see "Innovations" page 9; not available with 3.3 liter engine, required with 5.0 liter V-8)
- (H) **Traction-Lok Axle.** Under adverse operating conditions where one driving wheel could spin on ice, snow, sand or mud, the Traction-Lok automatically shifts some of the driving force, or torque, to the other wheel to take advantage of its better traction.††

††Delayed availability. Consult your Ford Dealer for details.



## Options Availability

1981 Thunderbird options are not confined to these pages but are shown throughout the catalog. Options, whether or not they are identified, are offered at extra cost. Some options are offered only in combination with other options. Availability of models and features described here and elsewhere may be subject to delay. Again, consult your Ford Dealer for the latest information.



## EXTENDED SERVICE PLAN

Ford Motor Company's optional Extended Service Plan covers certain selected components on new Ford cars and light trucks for longer than the vehicle's basic warranty. The cost is so moderate for the protection you get that it could pay for itself the first time you need it. Your Ford Dealer will be happy to give you complete details of the Plan, which is available on cars and light trucks sold and normally operated in all 50 United States and Canada.

### **Product Changes**

Ford Division reserves the right to change product specifications at any time without incurring obligations.

### **"Ask Your Ford Dealer"**

Every effort has been made in preparing this catalog to provide you—in one convenient place—the most complete and current information on the new Thunderbird. Following publication, however, certain changes in standard equipment, options, model availability, prices, and the like, may have occurred which would not be included in these pages. In such cases, it's good to remember that your best source is also closest to you. It is your local Ford Dealer, who has the most up-to-date information first and who is always ready to answer your questions about the fine Ford products he sells.

***Buy or lease a new  
Thunderbird from your  
Ford Dealer—  
a great choice either way!***

A World of  
Better Ideas



# THUNDERBIRD

FORD DIVISION



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Litho in U.S.A.